

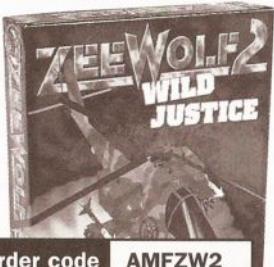
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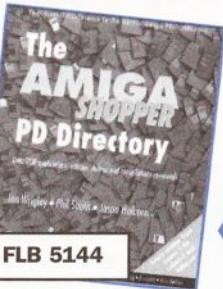
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The essential magazine for Amiga enthusiasts

AMIGA SHOPPER

Issue 66 September 1996

Subscription Letter



Dear Subscriber

After the upheavals of the last few months, it has been a relatively calm month for the Amiga. VISCORP know they have got to move fast to stem the flow of users from Amigas, but have avoided the pitfall of making promises they can't keep. They have revealed that they are truly committed to new architecture and new desktop Amigas, setting up an architecture design group of experts to work on the new projects. They also seem aware that the result will have to be a next generation powerhouse.

In the mean time, AS will continue for as long as we can providing you with the news and reviews that can keep you and your machine bang up to date. However, we've noticed that many users are reticent to spend more money on software for a machine they are not too confident about and that you look to our Coverdisks for much of your software nowadays. With this in mind, we've done a massive feature on PD and Shareware this month so that you can see the quality of cheap software now available. There's coverage of anything from text editors and image processors to music packages and morphing programs. Just because you're on a tight budget doesn't mean you can't use your Amiga for all sorts of purposes.

And you'll find the very best of new PD on this month's Subscribers' disk, so turn over and see what we've got for you.

David Taylor
Deputy Editor

See back page for special offers

Subscribers

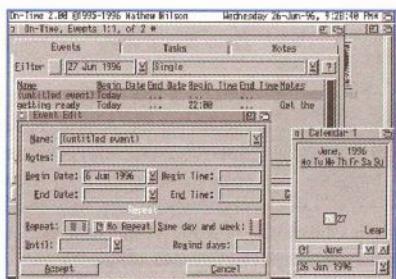
This month **David Taylor** introduces a mere four packages, but bigger can be better and less be more than you think!

Often in the past we have spurned larger packages for taking up too much room on our disks, but this month, instead of offering you repetitive utilities (as there were no original ones on offer), we decided to restrict the number of programs and use these larger ones. We hope you'll agree they're worth it.

Everyday Organiser

This package consists of three separate programs which when installed are integrated to work together. Locate is an address book utility, Alarmlist a daily alarm management program and On-Time, a personal event and task manager. There are also four extra utilities included: TimePrefs, Talk, Sam and Coder.

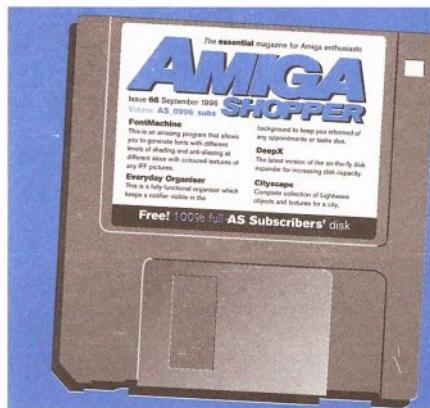
Locate is a very competent address manager, with entries for the address and phone numbers and also for any notes as well as a dial facility for those with a modem



Easy Organiser is really a suite of programs to solve all your organisational needs.

attached with a through port to their phone.

Alarmlist, unlike some alarm clocks, can handle multiple events so that you can set any number of alarms and set program launches to each alarm. It is designed to work in conjunction with On-Time so that it can launch the latter on specified dates to notify you of your appointments and also be attached to



Font Machine

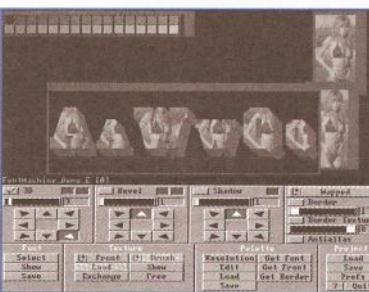
Everyday Organiser

Deep X

Cityscape

Locate should you want to load that too. Alarmlist has the advantage of a flexible Workbench clock and an ability to show any number of clocks from around the world.

The On-Time diary is a remarkably powerful program, but one that is very easy to use. When you open it, you will see two screens. One is a calendar which shows today's date and any other date that has events attached. To set an event, you simply click on New and a separate window will



Create fonts with any picture as a texture for your own work.

appear for you to fill in the details including any specific times and any number of times the event should be repeated, if you want it to appear on the next day as well for instance.

From the extra utilities, TimePrefs is a MUI replacement for the Workbench time preferences program, Talk is a replacement for the Say command, Sam a datatype sample player and Coder an encryption command.

All of the main programs in this package require MUI and make use of its appearance for a very approachable interface.

Font Machine

If you are into video titling then you'll know that the Amiga has some real advantages, but that getting hold of fonts can be somewhat tricky. Creating your own is a little difficult too without expensive software. Font Machine though is a superb new program that can let you load in different fonts and then uses IFFs as textures to be mapped on and transform a normal font into a multi-coloured version.

However, because you can use normal pictures, the textures don't have to be simple patterns, but can be proper images so that you can create letters out of anything.

The fonts can be of different sizes and

you can take an ordinary font and make it into a 3D one, by using the 3D outline or bevel it if you wish. When you set a 3D look or bevel or a shadow, you can choose which direction it will go in so that it can appear that you are looking at the font from a variety of angles. You can set the palette for fonts and also use the preferences for the program to set the resolution and method of colour re-mapping. For best results you can even turn on anti-aliasing. Once you have added your effects to a font, you can load in different fonts so that the same effects are added to them as well. Included in the package are several example projects for you to take a look at so that you can see how to make best use of Font Machines excellent features. Details of the full version, which amongst other things can save larger fonts, can be found in the documents.

DeepX

This is the new version of a useful package that can increase the size of your hard drive by making use of an on-the-fly expansion system. DeepX is easy to install and use, with options available to set the program to work automatically in the background. You can set it to request whether files should be compressed transparently or if you should be informed and requested to confirm the action. These preferences are set from the simple preference GUI, which makes the whole process painless.

Cityscape

This is simply a directory containing a set of objects for Lightwave complete with their textures. Using this package, you should be able to quickly and easily create a complete Cityscape, including things like bus shelters and telephone boxes. ■

Installation

To install your Subscribers disk, you can boot it; but you'll have to have your main Coverdisks at hand because the Subscribers disk needs a few files from them. If you have a hard drive, you can install everything from the three disks by loading Workbench and using the script on the first Coverdisk. Remember that after installing the disks, you may still need to install individual programs from their drawers.